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CONFIDENTIAL

19 February 1948

The Honorable J. Edgar Hoover  
 Director  
 Federal Bureau of Investigation  
 U. S. Department of Justice  
 Washington, D. C.

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Dear Mr. Hoover:

National Security Council Intelligence Directive No. 7, issued under date of 12 February 1948, states in part as follows:

"1. The Central Intelligence Agency shall be responsible for the exploitation, on a highly selective basis, within the United States of business concerns, other non-governmental organizations and individuals as sources of foreign intelligence information."

I have been under considerable pressure to establish, within the CIA organization, an "Alien Interrogation Unit" for the purpose of interrogating, for foreign intelligence purposes, refugees, foreign businessmen travelling in the U. S., and immigrants. As you know, we have done some of this on a very small scale, always clearing the matter first with your office in the area concerned. However, I have been reluctant to expand in this field in view of the possibility that such activity might inadvertently cross activities of your own. I am not convinced that the information to be obtained by these methods is of sufficient value to justify the always existing danger of handicapping your operations.

It is true, however, that, in view of the directive quoted above, we may now be called on by other government departments to conduct interrogation of foreigners for them. I would be appreciative of your comments in this regard before I bring up the matter for discussion before the Intelligence Advisory Committee.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely,

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/o/ RHM - RHM

R. H. Hillenbacker  
 Rear Admiral, USN  
 Director of Central Intelligence

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